



parameter

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pa·ram·e·ter **Pronunciation Key** (pə-rām'ī-tər)
n.

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1. Mathematics.

- a. A constant in an equation that varies in other equations of the same general form, especially such a constant in the equation of a curve or surface that can be varied to represent a family of curves or surfaces.
- b. One of a set of independent variables that express the coordinates of a point.

2.

- a. One of a set of measurable factors, such as temperature and pressure, that define a system and determine its behavior and are varied in an experiment.
- b. Usage Problem. A factor that restricts what is possible or what results: "all the parameters of shelter—where people will live, what mode of housing they will choose, and how they will pay for it" (New York).
- c. A factor that determines a range of variations; a boundary: *an experimental school that keeps expanding the parameters of its curriculum.*

3. Statistics. A quantity, such as a mean, that is calculated from data and describes a population.

4. Usage Problem. A distinguishing characteristic or feature.

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pa·ram·e·ter (pə-rām'ĭ-tər)
n.

1. One of a set of measurable factors, such as temperature and pressure, that define a system and determine its behavior and are varied in an experiment.
2. A factor that determines a range of variations; a boundary.
3. A statistical quantity, such as a mean or standard deviation of a total population, that is calculated from data and describes a characteristic of the population as opposed to a sample from the population.
4. A psychoanalytic tactic, other than interpretation, used by the analyst to further the patient's progress.
5. A factor that restricts what is possible or what results. Not in technical use.
6. A distinguishing characteristic or feature. Not in technical use.

par'a-met'ric (pär'ə-mēt'rĭk) or **par'a-met'ri-cal** *adj.*
par'a-met'ri-cal-ly *adv.*

Source: The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary
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parameter

n 1: a constant in the equation of a curve that can be varied to yield a family of similar curves [syn: parametric quantity] 2: any factor that defines a system and determines (or limits) its performance 3: a quantity (such as the mean or variance) that characterizes a statistical population and that can be estimated by calculations from sample data

Source: WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

parameter

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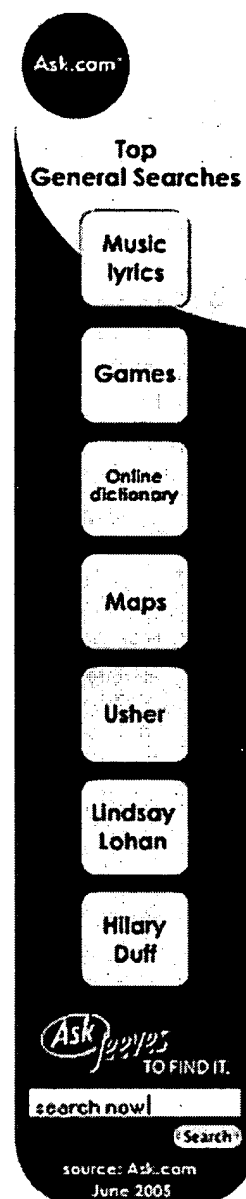
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[New Latin *parametrum*, *a line through the focus and parallel to the directrix of a conic* : Greek *para-*, *beside*; see *para-*¹ + Greek *metron*, *measure*; see *-meter*.]

par'a-met'ric (pār'ə-mĕt'ŕĭk) or **par'a-met'ri-cal** *adj.*
par'a-met'ri-cal-ly *adv.*

Usage Note: The term *parameter*, which originates in mathematics, has a number of specific meanings in fields such as astronomy, electricity, crystallography, and statistics. Perhaps because of its ring of technical authority, it has been used more generally in recent years to refer to any factor that determines a range of variations and especially to a factor that restricts what can result from a process or policy. In this use it often comes close to meaning "a limit or boundary." Some of these new uses have a clear connection to the technical senses of the word. For example, the provisions of a zoning ordinance that limit the height or density of new construction can be reasonably likened to mathematical parameters that establish the limits of other variables. Therefore one can say *The zoning commission announced new planning parameters for the historic Lamping district of the city*. But other uses go one step further and treat *parameter* as a high-toned synonym for *characteristic*. Eighty percent of Panelists reject this use of *parameter* in the example *The Judeo-Christian ethic is one of the important parameters of Western culture*. Some of the difficulties with the nontechnical use of *parameter* appear to arise from its resemblance to the word *perimeter*, with which it shares the sense "limit," though the precise meanings of the two words differ. This confusion probably explains the use of *parameter* in a sentence such as *U.S. forces report that the parameters of the mine area in the Gulf are fairly well established*, where the word *perimeter* would have expressed the intended sense more exactly. This example of a use of *parameter* was unacceptable to 61 percent of the Usage Panel.

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Qy 1 MEFRQEEFRKLAGRALGKLHRLLEKRQEGAETLELSADGRPVTTQTRDPPVVDCTCFGLP 60

Thu Jun 2 13:29:03 2005

us-10-734-731-4.ra1

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Db 181 LVEGVITYPACHGIWSKWAPPLERSRLATTAFCGSYAGAVVAMPLAGVLVQYSGWSSVFYV 240
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Qy 541 YGATHSTFQPPRPPPPVRDY 560
Db 541 YGATHSTVQPPRPPPPVRDY 560

RESULT 9

US-09-740-041-4
; Sequence 4, Application US/09740041
; Patent No. 6562593
; GENERAL INFORMATION:
; APPLICANT: MERKULOV, Karl et al
; TITLE OF INVENTION: ISOLATED HUMAN TRANSPORTER PROTEINS,
; TITLE OF INVENTION: NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING HUMAN TRANSPORTER PROTEINS,
; TITLE OF INVENTION: AND USES THEREOF
; FILE REFERENCE: CL001001
; CURRENT APPLICATION NUMBER: US/09/740,041
; CURRENT FILING DATE: 2000-12-20
; NUMBER OF SEQ ID NOS: 4
; SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 4.0
; SEQ ID NO 4
; LENGTH: 578
; TYPE: PRT
; ORGANISM: Rattus norvegicus
US-09-740-041-4

Query Match

Best Local Similarity 77.9%; Score 2313.5; DB 4; Length 578;
Matches 428; Conservative 79.3%; Pred. No. 6.3e-215;
57; Mismatches 50; Indels 5; Gaps 2;

Qy 5 QEEFRKLAGRALGKHLRLLEKQEGAETLELSADGRPVTQTTRDPPVVDCTCFGLPRRYI 64
Db 12 KEGIKNFAGKSLGQIYRVLEKKQDNRETIELTEDGKPLEVPEKKAPLCDCTCFGLPRRYI 71
Qy 65 IAIMSGLGFCISFGIRCNLGVAIVSMVNNSTTHRGHVVVQKAQFSWDPETVGLIHGSSFF 124
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Db 132
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Db 492

RESULT 10

US-09-915-181A-4
; Sequence 4, Appl
; Patent No. 681
; GENERAL INFORM
; APPLICANT: EDW
; APPLICANT: BE
; APPLICANT: FR
; APPLICANT: RE
; TITLE OF INVEN
; FILE REFERENCE
; CURRENT APPLIC
; CURRENT FILING
; PRIOR APPLICAT
; PRIOR FILING DA
; NUMBER OF SEQ 1
; SOFTWARE: Paten
; SEQ ID NO 4
; LENGTH: 582
; TYPE: PRT
; ORGANISM: Ratt
US-09-915-181A-4

Query Match

Best Local Similarity
Matches 428; Cc

Qy 5 QEEFR
Db 13 KEGIK
Qy 65 IAIMS
Db 73 IAIMS
Qy 125 WGYIV
Db 133 WGYIIT
Qy 185 VTYPAC
Db 193 VTYPAC
Qy 245 GIFWYL